

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3706

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES), UV

SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS VISIT TO UPPER VOLTA, APRIL 6-8

1. THE VISIT OF CHAIRMAN DIGGS TO UPPER VOLTA BEGAN WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE VIP RECEPTION ROOM AT THE AIRPORT AT WHICH HE OUTLINED THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS REQUESTING DOLS 200 MILLION FOR THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND THAT HE WAS PREPARING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST BY THE AFRICA SUB-COMMITTEE BY VISITING THE COUNTRIES OF THE SAHEL. UPPER VOLTA WAS THE FIRST STOP IN THE SAHEL.

2. AFTER A WORKING LUNCH AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE THE CHAIRMAN ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE COUNTRY TEAM. THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFED CHAIRMAN DIGGS ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION, WHICH IS EVOLVING TOWARD A RETURN TO ELECTED CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THE COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REVIEWED THE AID PROGRAM,
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BOTH CURRENT PROJECTS AND FUTURE PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BE PART OF THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED ABOUT THE PROPORTION OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE WOMEN AND FROM MINORITY GROUPS. THE DIRECTOR RESPONDED THAT SLIGHTLY OVER HALF THE VOLUNTEERS ARE WOMEN BUT THAT THERE ARE NO VOLUNTEERS FROM MINORITY GROUPS AMONG THE ONE HUNDRED VOLUNTEERS IN UPPER VOLTA.

3. CHAIRMAN DIGGS THEN PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMITE CONSULTATIF NATIONAL POUR LE RENOUVEAU (CCNR), LT. COL. MICHEL DEME. THE CCNR IS AN APPOINTED LEGISLATIVE BODY WHICH WILL SERVE UNTIL AN ELECTED PARLIAMENT IS ESTABLISHED LATER THIS YEAR.

4. NEXT WAS A VISIT TO A COORDINATING BODY SET UP BY THE SAHELIAN STATES FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL; COMITE INTER-ETATS DE LUTTE CONTRE LA SECHERESSE DANS LE SAHEL (CILSS) FOR A MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, M. ALY CISSE, WHO IS A FORMER MINISTER OF HEALTH FROM MALI. CHAIRMAN DIGGS DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM NOW PENDING BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS AND STATED THAT HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED RESOURCES FOR SAHELIAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CISSE REFERRED TO THE WORK THEN UNDERWAY IN OUAGADOUGOU TO PREPARE A SYNTHESIS OF THE FINDINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL AND EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS THAT THE FORTHCOMING MAY MEETING OF THE CLUB IN OTTAWA WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE SAHEL. CHAIRMAN DIGGS REPLIED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO ATTENDING THAT MEETING WHICH WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN ADVANCING THE U.S. SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

5. JUST PRIOR TO THE RECEPTION AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, CHAIRMAN DIGGS SPOKE TO THE AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF THE MISSION EMPHASIZING THE INCREASED INTEREST OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN AFRICA. THE RECEPTION ITSELF WAS ATTENDED BY A WIDE VARIETY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF VOLTAN GUESTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC AND DONOR COMMUNITY IN OUAGADOUGOU. ESPECIALLY NOTABLE WAS THE UNPRECEDENTED ATTENDANCE AT SUCH A FUNCTION BY ALMOST ALL MEMBERS OF THE VOLTAN CABINET.

6. ON APRIL 7 CHAIRMAN DIGGS PAID CALLS ON THE VOLTA MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS M. MOUSSA KARGOUGOU AND ON PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. DURING BOTH CALLS, CHAIRMAN DIGGS EXPLAINED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S INCREASED INTEREST IN AFRICA AND ITS PROPOSAL FOR THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT FUND. BOTH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE "SOVIET AND CUBAN OFFENSIVE" THROUGHOUT THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT IN THE FACE OF THIS SOVIET OFFENSIVE. (SEPTEL OUAGADOUGOU 1358)

7. THE CHAIRMAN THEN VISITED WITH THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT: M. AUGUSTIN WININGA. CHAIRMAN DIGGS EXPLAINED TO THE MINISTER THE \$200 MILLION REQUEST FOR A SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM NOW BEFORE THE CONGRESS. THE MINISTER WAS FAMILIAR WITH THIS

PROPOSAL FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH AID DURING HIS RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT. THE MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED HIS STRONG BELIEF THAT THE NEXT CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL MEETING IN OTTAWA IN MAY WOULD BRING TO FRUITION THE MANY LONG MONTHS OF PLANNING UNDERTAKEN BY THE CLUB WORKING GROUP AND CILSS. HE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASED ASSISTANCE EFFORT FOR UPPER VOLTA AND THE OTHER SAHELIAN COUNTRIES. THE MINISTER ASKED CHAIRMAN DIGGS TO BE THE ADVOCATE FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR COUNTRIES OF AFRICA BEFORE THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND PEOPLE. CHAIRMAN DIGGS RESPONDED BY STATING HE WAS FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF INCREASED AID FOR AFRICA AND BELIEVED THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT FUND WOULD BE PROMPTLY ENACTED.

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
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8. BEFORE SEEING PRESIDENT LAMIZANA; CHAIRMAN DIGGS STOPPED BY THE TRAINING SITE WHERE VOLTAN BOXERS ARE BEING TRAINED BY AMERICAN COACH TOM JOHNSON. HE WITNESSED THE CROWD OF VOLTAN ONLOOKERS WHICH COMES EVERY DAY TO THE TRAINING SITE AS EVIDENCE OF THE HIGH INTEREST AMONG VOLTANS IN BOXING AND THE SUCCESS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE BUREAU OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

9. A LUNCHEON WAS GIVEN IN THE CHAIRMAN'S HONOR BY MR. MARC BAZIN, PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE ONCHOCERCIASIS CONTROL PROGRAM. THE LUNCH WAS ATTENDED BY THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH; PUBLIC WORKS,

AND COMMERCE, MR. CISSE OF CILSS, AND MR. SIMEON SORGHO, DIRECTOR OF THE VOLTA VALLEY AUTHORITY (AVV). AFTER LUNCH THE GROUP MOVED TO A MEETING HALL TO VIEW THE FILM "PLAGUE UPON THE LAND" WHICH DESCRIBED THE ONCHOCERCIASIS PROBLEM AND ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL THE DISEASE. THE MINISTERS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLAN ALSO ATTENDED THE FILM SHOWING AND PARTICIPATED IN A USEFUL QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWING THE FILM.

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10. CHAIRMAN DIGGS PAID A CALL ON THE MORO NABA, THE HIGH CHIEF OF THE MOSSI NATION. (MOSSIS MAKE UP ONE HALF OF THE POPULATION OF UPPER VOLTA.) THE MORO NABA APPRECIATED THE RESPECT SHOWN TO HIM AND TO HIS POSITION IN TRADITIONAL MOSSI SOCIETY BY THIS CALL. THE CHAIRMAN OUTLINED THE INCREASED AMERICAN INTEREST IN AFRICA AND THE PROBABILITY OF SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN ADDITIONS TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN UPPER VOLTA. THE MORO NABA SAID HE WAS PLEASED AT THIS PROSPECT BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN WORRIED ABOUT RUSSIAN AND CUBAN INROADS IN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT LIMIT ITS ASSISTANCE TO THE ECONOMIC SPHERE BUT SHOULD PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS WELL.

11. IN THE EVENING THE VOLTAN GOVERNMENT (CCNR) GAVE A RECEPTION IN THE CONGRESSMAN'S HONOR. AMONG THE PERSONALITIES PRESENT WERE THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF PLAN.

12. AT 7:00 A.M. APRIL 8 CHAIRMAN DIGGS WAS TAKEN BY MR. SIMEON SORGHO; DIRECTOR OF THE AVV, TO VISIT MOGTEDO SETTLEMENT PROJECT. THIS IS AN AREA IN THE FERTILE VALLEY OF THE WHITE VOLTA RIVER WHICH HAD BEEN ABANDONED BY THE INHABITANTS BECAUSE OF ONCHOCERCIASIS ("RIVER BLINDNESS"). THE CHAIRMAN MET AVV COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS FOR THE NEW VILLAGES AND GAVE A PRESENT TO THE LOCAL CHIEF. DRIVING TO ONE OF THE NEW VILLAGES THE CHAIRMAN PASSED DONKEY CARTS LOADED WITH THE POSSESSIONS OF NEW SETTLERS MOVING IN. AT THE VILLAGE ITSELF HE TALKED WITH SETTLERS AND OBSERVED THE COOPERATIVE CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT FAMILY HOUSE. THE CHAIRMAN ALSO VISITED A MEDIUM-SIZED WATER STORAGE DAM AND A REFORESTATION TREE NURSERY WHICH IS GROWING 100,000 EUCALYPTUS TREES.

13. AT THE HOTEL BEFORE LEAVING, THE CHAIRMAN HELD A WELL-ATTENDED NEWS CONFERENCE. AFTER SUMMARIZING HIS VISIT HERE, HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD TOLD PRESIDENT LAMIZANA THAT THE DOLS 200 MILLION NOW BEING REQUESTED FROM CONGRESS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A US CONTRIBUTION OF BETWEEN DOLS 1 BILLION AND DOLS 1.5 BILLION OVER

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THE NEXT TEN YEARS. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE SAID THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS BUILDING ON THE STAGE SET BY KISSINGER EARLIER BUT THAT ONE COULD ALSO EXPECT SOME NEW INITIATIVES BECAUSE THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING. CHAIRMAN DIGGS DEFENDED THE ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, POINTING OUT THAT A SUCCESSFUL TRIBAL SECESSION THERE WOULD HAVE OMINOUS IMPLICATIONS TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MOST OTHER AFRICAN STATES WITH TRIBAL DIVISIONS.

14. NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, AND TV GAVE NEAR SATURATION COVERAGE TO THE VISIT OF CHAIRMAN DIGGS. PHOTOS AND ARTICLES APPEARED DAILY, AND BOTH PRESS CONFERENCE WERE REBROADCAST ON RADIO. (POUCHING PRESS CLIPS AND PHOTOS TO AF/W AND USIA.)

15. IN CONCLUSION, WE FEEL THAT THE VISIT OF CHAIRMAN DIGGS WAS QUITE BENEFICIAL TO U.S.-VOLTA RELATIONS. HE WAS THE FIRST MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO VISIT UPPER VOLTA IN OVER THREE YEARS, SINCE HIS LAST VISIT HERE. HIS REITERATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ASSURED OUR VOLTAN HOSTS THAT OUR COMMITMENT IS GENUINE. AND CHAIRMAN DIGGS'S FREQUENT MENTION OF THE INCREASED INTEREST IN AFRICA BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WAS COMFORTING TO THE LEADERS OF THIS NATION WHO ARE INCREASINGLY WORRIED BY SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES. IN TERMS OF THE FACT-FINDING OBJECTIVE OF THE TRIP, CHAIRMAN DIGGS SAID THAT HIS STOP IN UPPER VOLTA WAS VERY USEFUL.

GRAHAM

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